



# CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Central Connecticut communities surpass goal of housing 40 homeless youth during 100 Day Challenge**

*Free community celebration event to be held Saturday, August 10 on North Street*

**NEW BRITAIN**—Community partners from several Central Connecticut towns that joined together over the last several months during the nationwide “100 Day Challenge” surpassed their goal of housing 40 homeless youth. A free communitywide event will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 114 North St. to celebrate the milestone.

The towns in the Central Connecticut Coordinated Access Network (CAN) includes New Britain, Berlin, Bristol, Plainville, and Southington.

“To house 41 homeless youth over the last 100 days is an amazing accomplishment,” said New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart. “This is a testament to the strong community partnerships we have here in our community, and region. This work is a continuation of our Building Hope Together efforts, which have been ongoing for more than a decade to ensure that no one goes homeless.”

Stacey Violante Cote, Director of the Homeless Youth Advocacy Project at the Center for Children’s Advocacy, remarked to the group: “Congratulations! You are the first team to meet your goal—total rock stars! In all seriousness, we are impressed with your team’s drive, ability to make critical connections, and the number of youth you’ve housed. The only question is: with one week to go, what else can you rock stars do? What other gains can you lock in?”

The Reaching Home Ending Homelessness 100 Day Challenge began on May 1 and concludes on August 8. During that time, partners in New Britain successfully housed 41 youth between the ages of 18 and 24. Individuals were referred to the group through the 211 assistance hotline. Funding to house the individuals came from the American Savings Foundation, Journey Home, United Way, and the state Department of Housing. Funding was used to directly house individuals, as well as to assist with security deposits in certain instances.

Youth were also connected to wrap around services, such as health, education, and employment services. Bus passes were also provided to assist with getting individuals to their appointments.

At the start of the challenge, committee members established the following goal: “In 100 days, we will safely and stably house 40 unaccompanied youth and young adults between the ages of 16-24...80% of whom will be actively engaged with one of more of the following supportive services: health, education, employment, and state/local government resources.”

Among the community partners involved in the 100 Day Challenge were the City of New Britain Community Services department, the Salvation Army, OIC of New Britain, YWCA New Britain, Community Health Resources, Prudence Crandall, Partnerships for Strong Communities, and the Human Resources Agency of New Britain. Representatives from the organizations have been meeting weekly at the YWCA’s East Side Community Center to collaborate and move closer towards their goal.

Many of the above partners will have tables at the Aug. 10 event, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. OIC of New Britain, 114 North St. Other attendees will include Mayor Erin Stewart's Mobile Mayor's Office, several area churches, New Britain's Roots mobile farmer's market, and other partners. The event will also feature free hotdogs and hamburgers, chips, an ice cream truck, music, and more.

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